



November 7, 2003

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BOX NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Patsy Fonseca

(Signature)

11-7-03

Date of Signature

Re: Invention: LICENSE PLATE LAMP  
Inventors: BOWEN, Roy W.  
Serial No.: 10/037,273  
Filed: January 4, 2002  
Art Unit: 2875  
Examiner: Tsidulko, Mark  
Our Docket No.: P00588-US-0 (15859.0053)

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Examiner:

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2003, for the above identified patent application.

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Amendments

1. (currently amended) A vehicular lamp assembly for illuminating a license plate mounted on a vehicle with a light source electrically connected to an electrical system of the vehicle, wherein the vehicle has an exterior surface with an opening formed there through adjacent a license plate, said assembly comprising:
  - a. a light bulb;
  - b. a molded component comprising (i) a base portion having an opening formed there through, (ii) a lens portion rigidly, integrally molded completely over said opening in said base portion and extending outwardly from said base portion to form a hollow interior portion of said lens portion accessible through said opening in said base portion and (iii) a light source holder integrally molded to said base portion adjacent said opening in said base portion, said light source holder comprising a hollow tube projecting from said base portion, said hollow tube having a first opening at one end of said hollow tube and a second opening at an opposite end of said hollow tube, the hollow tube dimensioned such that the light bulb may not be passed completely through the hollow tube;
  - b. an electrical connector, said electrical connector adapted to provide for electrical connection to the light ~~source~~ bulb and electrical connection to the electrical system of the vehicle, said electrical connector positioned in said second opening of said hollow tube, said light source holder adapted to hold said electrical connector in said second opening, so that when the light ~~source~~ bulb is held by said first opening, the light ~~source~~

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bulb extends into said hollow portion of said lens portion, and said light source bulb and

said electrical connector are in electrical communication through said hollow tube; and

c. means for retaining said base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle so that  
said opening through said base portion overlies the opening through the surface of the  
vehicle to allow access to the light source bulb from the interior of the vehicle.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein said light source holder is molded with an opening there through, wherein said electrical connector employs a twist-lock mechanism, and wherein said opening through said light source holder is adapted to lockingly accept said electrical connector employing said twist-lock mechanism.
4. (Original) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein said means for retaining said base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle comprises at least one locking tab extending from said base portion, said at least one locking tab configured to be inserted into the opening formed through the exterior surface.
5. (Original) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein said means for retaining said base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle comprises at least one fastener connecting said base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle.
6. (Original) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein said molded component is molded of thermoplastic.

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7. (Original) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein a sealing gasket is provided between said base portion and the exterior surface of the vehicle to prevent the passage of moisture.
8. (currently amended) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 1, wherein said light source holder comprises a hollow tubular structure having openings at each end, the hollow interior dimensioned to receive at one end and retain electrical connectors connected to the electrical system and adapted to electrically engage the light ~~source~~ bulb when the light ~~source~~ bulb is inserted in the other end.
9. (currently amended) A vehicular lamp assembly comprising:
  - a molded component comprising a base portion, a lens portion integrally attached to the base portion, the interior surface of the base portion and the lens portion defining a cavity, and a hollow tube integrally attached to the base portion, the hollow tube forming an opening into the cavity;
  - an electrical connector positioned within the hollow tube; and
  - a light source inserted into the opening of the hollow tube such that the light source and the electrical connector are in electrical communication, the light source dimensioned such that the light source may not be passed completely through the hollow tube.
10. (previously presented) The vehicular lamp assembly of Claim 9, where the electrical connector is releasably inserted into the hollow tube, and is in releasable electrical communication with the light source.

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11. (previously presented) The vehicular lamp assembly of Claim 9, where the light source is releasably inserted into the hollow tube, and is in releasable electrical communication with the electrical connector.
12. (previously presented) The vehicular lamp assembly of Claim 9, where the hollow tube comprises a first opening extending into the cavity, and a second opening extending out of the cavity.
13. (new) A molded vehicular lamp assembly designed to cover an opening formed in the exterior surface of a vehicle and retain an electrical connector and a light source, the lamp assembly comprising:
  - a. a base portion designed and dimensioned to cover the perimeter of the opening;
  - b. a lens portion integrally attached to the base portion, the base portion and the lens defining a cavity with the base portion defining an opening into the cavity; and
  - c. a hollow tube integrally attached to the base portion, the hollow tube including a anterior open end positioned near the opening into the cavity, the anterior open end of the hollow tube substantially smaller in diameter than the opening into the cavity, wherein the anterior open end of the hollow tube is designed to receive a light source such that light emitted from the light source will be directed toward the lens.
14. (new) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 13 further comprising an electrical connector positioned in the hollow tube such that a light source inserted into the anterior open end of the hollow tube can be inserted into the electrical connector.

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15. (new) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 14 wherein the hollow tube further comprises a posterior open end opposite the anterior open end.
16. (new) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 15, wherein the electrical connector is releasably positioned in the posterior open end of the hollow tube.
17. (new) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 13 wherein the hollow tube is designed to receive a specific type of light source and the diameter of the opening into the cavity is larger than the diameter of the light source.
18. (new) The vehicular lamp assembly of claim 17 wherein the diameter of the anterior open end of the hollow tube is smaller than the diameter of the light source, thereby preventing the light source from passing completely through the anterior open end of the hollow tube.